

Deschutes Land Trust

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CONSERVATION. COMMUNITY. CARING FOR THE LAND.

4/21/2025

To: Senator Janeen Sollman and Representative Ricki Ruiz
Co-chairs, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

From: Deschutes Land Trust

Re: Support for the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) and Oregon Climate Service (OCS)
hosted by Oregon State University.

Dear Senator Sollman, Representative Ruiz, and committee members:

The Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) and Oregon Climate Service (OCS) hosted by Oregon State University supply critical scientific information to Oregonians about the current and potential impacts of climate change across the state. At Deschutes Land Trust (DLT), we review the biennial Oregon State Climate Assessments produced by OCCRI for information about climate change projections in our service area (The Deschutes River basin). We also look to reliable sources like OCS for information on Oregon's weather and climate. Understanding current and projected impacts from climate change on natural resources is of critical importance to DLT's ability to conserve and steward land under changing conditions.

In addition to the data and reports supplied by OCS and OCCRI, we've had members of the OCCRI research team give presentations to DLT's Emerging Conservationists of Central Oregon group. These informative talks help Oregonians better understand climate science and the threats climate change poses to our regions natural systems and communities.

DLT utilizes and strongly supports the work of OCCRI and OCS, and encourages representatives in the state legislature to continue their support for this important work and outreach across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mike Vernon
Conservation Manager